Minutes

Students’ Representative Council Meeting

Date: 2021-05-26 | Time: 18:00 | Venue: SRC Boardroom

# Attendance & Apologies

* Present in person
  + Kira
  + Philip
  + Jarryd
  + Eduard
  + Viwe
  + Luigia
  + Joshua
  + Leoné
  + Almé
  + Rewaldo
  + Khwezi
* Present online
  + Maki
  + Sarah
  + Ayesha
  + Masixole
  + Kristin
  + Thimna
  + Sinegugu
* Absent
  + Xola
  + Gina
  + Unathi
  + Sinegugu
  + Avumile
  + Precious
* Apologies
  + Gina
  + Kristin
  + Philip
  + Unathi
  + Sarah
  + Thimna
  + Xola
  + Maki
  + Precious

# Setting of the agenda

Additional Points

* + Voting: Penalty for not attending office duty
  + Rector’s award theme
  + Voting: Policy Officer
  + Feedback: Residence Placement Policy

# Portfolio Feedback

## Ayesha

Pride week plans underway for the week of 7 June

Task team has been formed, but a SU has also recently formed a working group which deals

The Anti-GBV memorandum is being followed up, some residences have not submitted anything to the portfolio

## Kristin

Working with Dean’s management team regarding

* + Many entrances to the campus being locked
  + Computer user areas have very limited access and hours

The TSR brought a case of cyberbullying to the Equality Unit, but the unit was unhelpful in resolving the matter and referred it back to the TSR.

## Maki

Planning mental wellness month, including info

Posters for CSCD’s booths

* + Time management, stress management, anxiety

Collaborating with Thimna on Mental Wellness talk

Planning Indigenous games day and inter-cluster competition

## Sarah

Subcommittee has been formed

The third wave might move upcoming events online

Part of the IACI

* + International Student Recruitment program aims to integrate national and international undergraduate and postgraduate students

In Utopia week the contributions of European Universities to SU were discussed.

## Masixole

Working with Student Parliament to finalise residence constitutions, including a disciplinary committee section as requested by the committee.

Plans to launch driving school programme with the Alumni Office and to increase the number of students that can be funded.

Trainings will be offered to potential candidates for the new committee

## Thimna

Maties Sport will transport 20 Tygerberg students to Stellenbosch for Taekwondo

Working with CSCD on a talk about substance abuse as it relates to Mental Health

Checking in with Campus Security tomorrow

* + Request for campus security, fire department and SAPS go to have on relevant safety matters in residences

Working with the SU Safety Think Tank

Working on anti-cyberbullying campaign with the Equality Unit

## Philip

Planning boardroom upgrades

* + New policy to be approved on renting the boardroom

Student Parliament conducting an audit of all treasurers on campus. SRC has submitted all relevant documentation

## Leoné

Had a meeting in the municipal chambers. There mayor requested the Prim Committee to invite them to their meetings if they have questions or concerns.

Plans to start a new PSO, Rubix.net, which is a senior PSO but will be run differently to a conventional PSO.

Representing students on DSAf task teams

* + Community students
  + LGBTQ
  + Residence Heads Elections
  + Campus Elections

Constitutional review underway, to be voted in in the third term

Organ donation awareness campaign

## Joshua

Residence performance regarding transformation has been lower than expected

Planning leadership development activities

## Luigia

Hosting workshops throughout campus, hoping to get more residence policy

SRC accessibility policy logistics being evaluated

Safe spaces initiative is running online, with two communications per month

## Viwe

Planning pride week and pride wall

Transformation workshop to occur on 5th or 6th of June, focus on how transformation can be implemented in every portfolio in the SRC

## Khwezi

Meeting regularly with sports planners to ensure their activities continue

## Rewaldo

Toneelfees plans had to be changed

Molassesêr and debating were successful

Military Academy Acapella planned

SU Acapella will be recorded and posted online. Venue and COVID compliance and main concern.

## Jarryd

Concerns

* + Effect of third wave on academic activities, but SU’s numbers are declining
  + Lobbying for data to be provided to needy / vulnerable students
  + Lack of compassion for burnout
  + Limited assessment opportunities disincentivising student to be honest on the Higher Health app

## Eduard

Workstream for Student Services

* + Preparing for third wave
  + Removing students from exam venues if they are symptomatic or were found to be dishonest on Higher Health
  + Sentiment is that F2F classes are becoming redundant, practicals not, and lecturers prefer F2F assessments while students are mixed.
  + Request to remind students to submit appeals! 350 of them.

Communications Policy Task Team

* + Early stages, determining scope
  + SRC will encourage focus on
    - Monitoring & accountability of multilingualism
    - Communication management – less emails, more forms / portals, homogenised.

SAUS Meeting on political education & decolonisation this weekend

Imminent COVID-19 issues

* + Plan an emergency meeting with rectorate / ICBC
  + Create an objective public comment form

## Almé

Supporting SRC portfolios with branding materials and posters

Hoping to procure branded jackets for the SRC and take SRC individual and group photos

Friend of a cluster initiative progressing well

## Kira

The African Student Leaders Network conference is coming up, where African student leaders can have a productive, collaborative discussion

Working with Tonia Overmeyer to develop a leadership manual and address gap in student leadership development on campus

# Equality Unit: Anti-Cyberbullying Campaign

Concerns on authenticity & intentions of the campaign.

* + Apparently, there will no longer be training on this campaign & policy.

Will request to have a similar approach as the registrar with the Residence placement policy – to sit down, train, and consult the SRC on the policy.

The SRC would support this campaign if it receives training on the SU Unfair Discrimination & Sexual Harassment Policy as it relates to the campaign.

Sometimes training and information on how the policy is implemented on campus is more important.

If the Equality does not deal with cyberbullying matters and refers it back to student leaders (as it did with the TSR), then they should not receive the SRC’s support.

Ayesha, Viwe, Kristin to devise a way forward and report back at next meeting.

# Mental Health Safety

Masixole reported an uptake in attempted suicides in senior residences

Possible solutions

* + Lecturers & module coordinators need to motivate students to prioritise their mental health
  + Making mental health information very visible, especially on SunLearn
  + Panic buttons in residences

Jarryd and Thimna will engage with Dr Antoinette Van Der Merwe on the possible implementation of these strategies

## Boardroom Renting Policy

Various cost grades have been implemented, depending on how close to SU and how close to the SRC they are.

* + The nature of the meeting is important here. Private functions by SRC members cannot be billed under the SRC rate.
  + The intention is to recoup the funds invested in the boardroom whilst giving students access to great facilities

Votes

* + 12 – Yes
  + 1 – No

The boardroom renting policy is voted in

## SRC Office Manager Duties

The office manager is meant to make sure the office is an organised and functional environment conducive to efficient working.

The manager will deal with logistical matters (making sure everything is in stock and functional)

The manager will not clean up after SRC members, but instead will have the authority to reprimand them.

The duties and hours of the office manager were amended and this, along with the compensation, was agreed upon by consensus.

## Imminent COVID-19 issues

Limited assessment opportunities disincentivising student to be honest on the Higher Health app

Concerns about lack of corrective actions for staff members who do not adhere to the protocols.

COVID-19 related policies will be enforced stringently. Some student leaders have received warnings, and some have been dismissed for not enforcing it as required.

## Voting: Penalty for not attending office duty

Some SRC members are regularly not attending office duty

A monetary deduction is the minimum punitive action. But absence from office duty means some students are not being served, so there is a call for further disciplinary action against members who are repeat offenders.

Office managers are participating in this vote as well, as this is an internal agreement, not a far-reaching policy, which also affects managers as they have office duty

Votes

* + 12 – Yes
  + 2 – No

The penalty for not attending office duty is voted in.

## Rector’s Award Theme

The options for the theme are

* + Medical industry
  + Social Justice & Human Rights sector
  + Sustainability sphere

## Feedback on Residence Placement Policy

Following the meeting on the residence placement policy last week, Kira will open a Google Form where SRC members can further comment on the policy

## Voting: Policy Officer

Only Philip has availed himself for this position

Votes:

* + 9 – Yes
  + 2 – No

Philip is voted in as the new policy officer

## Closing

Kira adjourned the meeting